Jabalpur division and Latur district was 6.3 and 6.4 respectively. The epicentrum of earthquake at Latur was 10 kms. whereas at Jabalpur it was 30-35 kms. It is evident that the intensity of the earthquake in Jabalpur division was more than that of Latur. Heavy casualities in Latur were caused due to the winter season, people sleeping inside their houses, and stone built houses whereas lives in Jabalpur are saved due to summer season, people sleeping outside their houses, and mud built houses.

The earthquake caused maximum damage and loss in terms of property in the Jabalpur, Sivni and Narsimpur districts. In Jabalpur city not even 5 per cent houses have remained in good condition. 95 per cent houses have either collapsed or developed large cracks. It is being feared that in the coming two months, thousands of houses will collapse leading to a heavy loss of life.

The Union Government are therefore, urged upon to provide adequate assistance to avoid heavy loss of life and property and to declare the earthquake affected districts as calamity affected and the whole area industrially backward.

(iv) Need to declare Argon and Sayeed Ethnic Groups of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe

[English]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Sir, eight ethnic groups consisting of about 95 per cent population of Ladakh were declared Scheduled Tribe *vice* Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribe Order of 1989. But, unfortunately, two small ethnic groups known as ARGONS and SAYEED of about 4000 population were left out on some technical grounds. These two ethnic groups had originally migrated from Kashmir and other neighbouring countries and had been living in Ladakh for centuries. Over the centuries, the two ethnic groups completely assimilated into the Ladakhi way of life. They speak the same language, have the same culture and observe the same traditions as that of other eight ethnic groups.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to declare the Argon and Sayeed ethnic groups of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe without further loss of time.

(v) Need for construction of a railway over-bridge at Wadakkanchery in Trissur District, Kerala.

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR (Ottapalam) : Sir, it was a long-pending demand of the people of Trissur District to build a railway over-bridge at Wadakkanchery, Trissur District, Kerala. Trissur is the cultural headquarters of Kerala. The World famous Kerala Kalamandalam in memory of the great poet Vallathol Narayana Menon is situated near Wadakkanchery. The Trissur Medical College is also very near to Wadakkanchery.

As such, immediate action may please be taken to build a railway over-bridge at Wadakkanchery, Trissur.

(vi) Need for early execution of maintenance work of Tamil Nadu part of the Trivandarum-Kanyakumari National Highway No. 47.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Tamil Nadu part of the Thiruvananthpuram-Kanyakumari National Highway No.: 47 is for long in a very bad condition causing difficulties and inconveniences to the passengers and general public. In spite of repeated representations the maintenance work is not being expedited. There are lot of pits, cracks and holes on the road. Deep trenches are formed on both sides of road. Due to the recent monsoon rains, the conditions deteriorated with grave damages. Thus it is subjected to frequent accidents. It is posing grave danger to the passengers and vehicular traffic. It is one of the busiest roads in the country and once it was praised as the longest cement road in India. But now it is worst maintained road. Further abandonment without maintenance would aggravate the difficulties of passengers and gravely affect the movements of vehicular and passenger traffic.

I, urge upon the Government not to postpone the execution of the work further and special attention should be paid for the immediate maintenance of this very urgent and important work in the Tamil Nadu of NH: 47 at the earliest to make an end to the long-standing difficuties faced by passengers and genral public.

(vii) Need to sanction adequate funds to develop Monghyr in Bihar as a tourist resort.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Monghyr is an ancient city. A yoga Ashram of international repute and Ganga darshan are there at Karnachaura. Thousands of people from abroad visit this place. Out of 9 Mahashakti peeths' one Chandi peeth is in Monghyr. Pilgrims from all corners of the country visit the place to seek blessings. There is a hot water spring popularly known as 'Sita Kund'. A big fair is organised here. Thousands of people from far flung areas come to this fair to offer prayers and worship. Thousands of people come here to enjoy the enchanting scenario of 'Bhim Bandh' belonging to Mahabharta era. There is a medieval fort of Mir Qasim. The fort has three gates in North, South and East. The Ganga flows along the western side of the fort. The fort is surrounded by a deep trench from three sides which used to be full of Ganga water. People used to practise boating here. But due to mismanagement, now it has remained a trench only.